

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

INTRODUCED BY D. MCALPIN

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO AND FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

WHEREAS, transportation is essential for all residents of Montana to gain access to necessities of every kind, including jobs, schools, health care facilities, and life's social and survival needs; and

WHEREAS, public transportation agencies across Montana provide services that enable thousands of Montana residents to meet their daily transportation needs without the use of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the increased use of public transportation in Montana results in decreased congestion on our roads and freeways, makes more efficient use of transportation funds and infrastructure, decreases Montana's dependency on fossil fuels, and contributes to improved air quality; and

WHEREAS, demographic data and ridership statistics derived from public agencies and service providers across Montana show that a large percentage of riders live in households with below average income levels or are seniors and adults with disabilities and that these riders do not have any means, other than public transit, to get to jobs, schools, medical care, shops and markets, and municipal and other governmental facilities; and

WHEREAS, demographic data and ridership statistics derived from public agencies and service providers across Montana show that the remaining riders who use public transportation in Montana choose to do so for social, economic, and environmental reasons; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 30% of Montanans do not drive; and

WHEREAS, the demand for public transportation services across Montana is increasing at a rate that far exceeds the rate of increase in local, state, and federal operating and capital assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the State of Montana support efforts to:

(1) increase local, state, and federal funding for public transit in order to increase the availability of public transportation services to all Montana residents;



